

University of South Alabama College of Medicine Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2010

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION/ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Minutes from 12/9/09	Dr. Al-Mehdi called the meeting to order. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2009 meeting.	The minutes from the December 9, 2009 meeting were approved.	None
Review of Second Year Pathology course	<p>Dr. Sosnowski presented the review of the Pathology course. He noted that the student performance in 2009 resulted in increased numbers of “A’s” and an increase in the average mini-board score. The course is comprised of 138 lecture hours, 15 small group hours, 24 wet-lab hours, and 1 autopsy (students are given a call beeper). The objectives for the course have been modified to put more emphasis on signs and symptoms, molecular pathways, and pathophysiology. The syllabus was changed to make it more user-friendly. Performance is evaluated as follows: mini-board – 20 points, small group grade – 15 points, 5 exams for a total of 65 points, and non-mandatory pop clicker quizzes for an additional 2 percent. The pathology mini-board is reviewed by the faculty before the course starts and again before the final exam. Content is reviewed to see if it is adequately covered in the course and question formats are reviewed to see how the stems are typically presented.</p> <p>Small groups are held at the hospital and require that the students wear professional attire. Students make case presentations which are tied to course content. Students are graded on their presentations and then</p>	Continue to develop clinical cases. Dr. Sosnowski will be looking to dismantle the “tough” test blocks so the course will flow better and all the test blocks will be equally difficult. As always, Dr. Sosnowski and the pathology faculty seek to improve the course and to raise the mini-board scores.	None

(continued)	<p>the entire class is quizzed on the presentations. Ninety percent of the departmental exams follow Step 1 format and approximately 60% of exam questions are higher order questions. The exams are computer-based and the order of questions is randomized. Students evaluate the course per test block and exam question challenges are permitted in order to increase the value of the test in overall learning. Clinical correlation lectures were recently eliminated as were general “lab test” lectures and more emphasis on molecular pathways and review of histology were added.</p> <p>The final course evaluation from the students focuses on all aspects of the course (duration, textbook, lectures, small group) so that improvements can be made. Dr. Sosnowski also meets with a small group of students after the course to get feedback. The evaluations are taken very seriously. As an example, the selected textbook was changed last year to a shorter more concise textbook secondary to the feedback from the students. The quizzes are typically given a day after presentations and the students are responsible for bringing their own clickers. Dr. Sosnowski is moving gradually to develop a test-bank and has drawn the cases for small group presentations from published material.</p>		
Fourth Year Elective: Introduction to Informatics	Judy Burnham has proposed redesigning the fourth year Introduction to Informatics course to focus on electronic medical records informatics, web portals, and POC systems. The National Institute of Health has	These ideas would be presented at the next clerkship directors meeting.	None

(continued)	<p>mandated open access to medical records. In addition, Continuing Medical Education, emerging trends in medicine and mobile technologies need to be incorporated. The fourth year elective is currently under-subscribed. There was general discussion about needing to promote it. There was also some question about whether some of the topics could be incorporated into the ICM II course. Currently, evidence based medicine sessions are presented to all third year students twice a year. It was suggested that the sessions should be consolidated, shortened, and added to third year orientation.</p>		
Proposed Acting Internship in Laproscopic GI and Colorectal Surgery	<p>Dr. Celeste Hollands presented a proposed acting internship from Dr. Richards (the chair of Surgery). The clinical experience would be centered at the out-patient clinic at Infirmary West and would be a more “top down” clinical experience for students in that they would have more contact with their attending physicians versus contact with residents. Dr. Hollands estimated that the students would follow approximately 5 new patients per week and that the volume should be adequate.</p>	<p>Dr. Hollands will reformat the proposed acting internship so that it can be managed in OASIS. The acting internship was approved in concept and will begin in July.</p>	None
Announcements/New Business	None	None	None

Members Present: Drs. Al-Mehdi, Audia, Chen, Estrada, Fields, Gard, Hollands, LeDoux, Motley, O'Brien, Pettyjohn, Sherman, and Taylor

Judy Burnham

Travis Harris (COM II)

Members Excused: Drs. Barik and Tucker

Haley Hallman (COM IV)

Members Absent: Drs. Broughton, Hundley, McQuiston, and Parker

John Meriwether (COM III)

Guests: Rhonda Smith and Mike Carmichael

Dr. Abu Al-Mehdi, Chair